

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 758

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Donald Holt "Don"
Ledford of Bradley County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Donald Holt "Don" Ledford; and

WHEREAS, Don Ledford was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford was a lifelong entrepreneur whose work ethic and dedication to excellence were highly regarded by the members of his community; and

WHEREAS, Don Ledford's familial roots in Bradley County can be traced back to the late 1800s, when his great-grandfather William Lafayette Ledford purchased a 2,500-acre farm in Charleston; and

WHEREAS, the founder of Don Ledford Automotive Center, Mr. Ledford began working at a very young age, working on family farms before learning the saw milling trade; at the age of fourteen, he purchased and staffed his own sawmill, providing lumber for numerous construction projects in his area; and

WHEREAS, in his twenties, Don Ledford began his long career in the automobile industry, driving to Detroit, Michigan, to purchase cars and bring them back to Tennessee to sell; the endeavor subsequently grew into a large and well-known operation; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Mr. Ledford began developing properties before venturing into the warehousing business; he was one of the first people to bring the concept of mini-warehousing to Cleveland and was later one of the first commercial warehousing developers in the area; and

WHEREAS, his first commercial warehousing project was a truck terminal for Mason Dixon truck lines; he subsequently obtained contracts from such nationally known companies as Duracell, Eaton, and Georgia Pacific; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Don Ledford opened Don Ledford Pontiac Buick, which would later become Don Ledford Pontiac Buick Cadillac GMC in 2001; in 2007, Mr. Ledford acquired Heritage Pontiac Buick GMC and Athens Chevrolet Cadillac and combined the two dealerships into one; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford was an active and devout member of Center Point Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Don Ledford was a former Cleveland Rotarian and Elks Lodge member; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Don Ledford is survived by his children, Donald Holt Ledford II and Debbie Ledford (James) Melton; his lifelong companion and friend, Melody Pendergrass; his six grandchildren, Lauren Olivia Ledford, Caroline Reed Ledford, Julia Holt Ledford, James William Melton, Ella Marie Melton, and Jessica Ann Melton; several nieces and nephews; his former wife, Ella Sue Bacon Ledford; and close friends, Randy and Wendy Scott, Sammy Shelton, Trinity Scott, Misty Pendergrass, and Hannah Lawson; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, William LaFayette Ledford and Myrtle Frances Shields Ledford; his brother, William Julian Ledford; and his sister, Betty Jean McDaniel; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ledford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Donald Holt "Don" Ledford, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ledford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.